

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH CONDITIONS: Stephan J. Holfeld, Esquire Supreme Court No. 32, 2013 Effective Date: March 19, 2013

On March 19, 2013, the Delaware Supreme Court ordered that Stephan J. Holfeld, Esquire, of Dover, Delaware be publicly reprimanded.

The Court approved a Report and Recommendation of Sanctions that was submitted by a panel of the Board on Professional Responsibility. The Board's Report concluded Mr. Holfeld had violated the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct by violating the terms of a prior disciplinary disposition (**Procedural Rule 7**) and (**Rule 8.4(d)**).

In 2010, Mr. Holfeld had accepted a private admonition offered by the Preliminary Review Committee for his failure to maintain his law practice's books and records, to safeguard client funds, to supervise non-lawyer staff, and for filing his 2010 Supreme Court Certificate of Compliance with inaccurate information. As a condition of the private admonition, Mr. Holfeld was required to provide a precertification by a licensed certified public accountant with his 2011 and 2012 Supreme Court Certificates of Compliance. Mr. Holfeld failed to provide the required precertifications.

In approving the Board's Report and Recommendation, the Court found Mr. Holfeld had an obligation to comply strictly with the conditions imposed upon him with his earlier private admonition and the lack of any injury or subsequent irregularities in the recordkeeping did not excuse the misconduct. The Court also noted Mr. Holfeld's prior disciplinary record of four private admonitions warranted a more severe sanction.

As a condition of the public reprimand, Mr. Holfeld is required to provide precertifications with his 2013 and 2014 Certificates of Compliance and attend a law office management continuing legal education course.